

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 are pending. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-16 and 22-26 have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 4 and 11 are in independent form.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 have been allowed. Since the rejected claims have been canceled herein, the subject application is believed to be in condition for allowance.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY-CITED DOCUMENT

The Third Information Disclosure Statement, timely filed on June 15, 2001, cited fourteen documents, which were submitted therewith. The Examiner acknowledged consideration of all of the cited documents (including pending U.S. patent applications not listed on Form PTO-1449), except for U.S. Patent Application No. 08/739,013. That application has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,662,159, which is cited on the Form PTO-1449 enclosed herewith. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider that patent and indicate in the next official communication that that patent has been considered, by returning an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants enclose a copy of a date-stamped postcard indicating receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the Third Information Disclosure Statement, the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and the fourteen cited documents.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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